IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 4 and 6-8 and AMEND claims 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 in accordance with the following:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voice interactive system, comprising:

an acoustic processing part ~~for~~ performing acoustic signal processing with respect to an input voice signal;

a voice recognizing part ~~for~~ recognizing contents of a voice contained in the voice signal after being subjected to the acoustic signal processing;

a voice interacting part ~~for~~ transmitting information to a user through a voice output or a combination of the voice output and another information transmission unit based on the contents of the voice; and

a barge-in control part having a barge-in function of suspending transmission of information by an input or an output of the acoustic processing part[,] or an input signal from an external input in the course of ~~the~~ transmission of information, wherein:

the barge-in control part detects one or more feature values from ~~the~~ an input or ~~the~~ an output of the acoustic processing part, or ~~the~~ an input signal from the external input, and determines whether or not the barge-in function is set to be effective based on the one or more feature values, the one or more feature values including positional information of the user detected from the input signal from the external input, and

the barge-in control part calculates an environment evaluation value of a position of the user, based on the positional information and environmental information on the position, and determines the barge-in function to be non-effective in a case where the environment evaluation value exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

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2.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The voice interactive system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the one or more feature values _further include_ ~~is~~ a noise feature value, and the barge-in function is set to be non-effective in a case where the noise feature value exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

3.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The voice interactive system according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the one or more feature values _further include_ ~~is a S/N of a user voice,~~ _a signal to noise ratio of the voice signal,_ and the barge-in function is set to be _non-_effective in ~~a~~ _the_ case where the ~~S/N~~ _signal to noise ratio of the voice signal_ exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

4.   (CANCELLED)

5.   (ORIGINAL) The voice interactive system according to claim 1, wherein the voice interacting part notifies the user of an effective/non-effective state of the barge-in function using at least one of a voice and another information transmission unit.

6.   (CANCELLED)

7.   (CANCELLED)

8.   (CANCELLED)

9.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voice interactive method_,_ comprising:

~~a first operation of~~ performing acoustic signal processing with respect to an input voice signal _and producing a processed, output signal_;

~~a second operation of~~ recognizing contents of a voice contained in the processed, output signal, after the input voice signal ~~after being~~ has been subjected to the acoustic signal processing;

~~a third operation of~~ transmitting information to a user through a voice output or a combination of the voice output and another information transmission unit based on the contents of the voice; and

~~a fourth operation having~~ determining whether a barge-in function of suspending transmission of information by an input or an output in the ~~first operation~~ performing acoustic signal processing or an input signal from an external input in ~~the course of~~ the transmission ~~of~~ information to a user is set to be effective or non-effective, wherein, in the determining:

~~fourth operation,~~ one or more feature values are detected from the input voice signal or the processed, output signal ~~in the first operation~~ or the input signal from the external input, and whether or not the barge-in function is set to be effective is determined based on the one or more feature values, the one or more feature values including positional information of the user detected from the input signal from the external input,

an environment evaluation value of a position of the user is calculated, based on the positional information and environmental information on the position, and

the barge-in function is determined to be non-effective in the case where the environment evaluation value exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

10.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer program product in which a computer-executable program for realizing a voice interactive method is recorded on a medium, the program causing the computer to execute: ~~comprising:~~

~~a first operation of~~ performing acoustic signal processing with respect to an input voice signal and producing a processed, output signal;

~~a second operation of~~ recognizing contents of a voice contained in the processed, output signal after the input voice signal ~~after being~~ has been subjected to the acoustic signal processing;

a third operation of transmitting information to a user through a voice output or a combination of the voice output and another information transmission unit based on the contents of the voice; and

a fourth operation having determining whether a barge-in function of suspending transmission of information by an input or an output in the first operation acoustic signal processing or an input signal from an external input in the course of the transmission of transmitting information to a user is set to be effective or non-effective, wherein, in the fourth operation, determining: the program detects one or more feature values from the input or the output in the first operation or the input signal from the external input, and determines whether or not the barge-in function is set to be effective based on the one or more feature values

one or more feature values are detected from the input voice signal or the processed, output signal or the input signal from the external input, and whether or not the barge-in function is set to be effective is determined based on the one or more feature values, and the one or more feature values include positional information of the user detected from the input signal from the external input, and

an environment evaluation value of a position of the user is calculated based on the positional information and environmental information on the position, and the barge-in function is determined to be non-effective in the case where the environment evaluation value exceeds a predetermined threshold value.